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SOURCE

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HEALTH SERVICE PROBLEMS

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The main defects in the health service in the old Yugoslavia were the extensive duplication of therapeutic and preventive services, the unsatisfactory liaison between polyclinics for ambulatory patients and hospitals, and the insufficient attention given to training skilled, semiskilled, and unskilled medical personnel. The main defects of the health service originated from the social relationships which prevailed in the old Yugoslavia, where a proper policy for the health service could not be achieved. As a result of the liberation, the destruction of the power of domestic exploiters, and the attainment of positions of power by the working people under the leadership of the Communist Party, our peoples are building socialism and a socialist health service.

Health service organization is a specialty which requires outstanding culture and a vast knowledge of biology and medicine. It calls for a combined knowledge of medicine and social legislation. The general organizer need not know all the pathological changes of the organism or give finely drawn diagnoses, but he must know the theoretical principles of diseases, the countermeasures against them, and the latest methods of treatment.

Every health work leader of the scientific and technical department must organize his service and find the best means of implementation so that medical advances can be used to preserve the health of the nation.

The basic principles and aims of the health service are as follows:

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1. Prophylaxis

Our health service regards the execution of extensive sanitary measures for preventing disease as the major task. Such measures include:

- a. Organization of measures for preventing propagation and spread of infectious diseases by sanitization of settlements, health education, etc.
- b. Organization of communal feeding based on scientific and hygienic principles.
- c. Continuous improvement of hygienic and protective labor conditions.

Prophylactic and health education services are a part of every health establishment. Doctors should not only treat the patient but also prevent disease.

2. Planning

A health service is a part of general economic and cultural planning, a part of the general planning of the socialist state which we are building. The main principles of planning, training of personnel, investment, planning of health installations, scientific research, etc., must be considered. Correct planning and leadership by the health service must be based on statistics and evidence. According to Tito, "A stable and successful planned economy cannot exist without good statistics and evidence."

3. Mothers and Children

Comprehensive provision must be made for mothers and children. This includes creation of an extensive system of prenatal clinics, nurseries, and arrangements for preschool education, which is all part of the program of the Communist Party.

4. Organization

According to the principles of our health service, the hospital and polyclinic services are organized in conjunction with the principle of the unity of hospitals and polyclinics for ambulatory patients.

Tasks confronting the health service include the struggle for the realization of wide prophylactic practice, the fight against mass social diseases, (tuberculosis, venereal diseases, cancer, etc.), the struggle to plan correctly to improve therapeutic-prophylactic service, to train medical personnel, etc.

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